

PROCEEDINGS OF A SYMPOSIUM ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDHOOD, held in The Wellcome Building, London, 4th to 6th May 1959. Published by E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., Edinburgh and London. Distributed in the United States by The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1960. 139 pages, \$4.25.

The title of the book establishes its character. The data and viewpoints presented by some ten individuals are typical of all symposia. Some sixty individuals attended the five sessions. All but seven were from the British Isles. Some of those attending entered into the discussions of the subjects presented and expressed their personal opinions and experiences. This symposium was held in May of 1959; the purpose as stated in the foreword: "The time has come to assess all the evidence which has accumulated and to attempt to reach agreement on certain basic principles which must be observed in all inoculation schedules." It seemed to this reviewer the real purpose of the symposium was to work out the confusion and disorganization that had developed in the field of immunization under the system of socialized medicine in England. Some lethargy in immunization procedures must have existed for it was not until 1942 that, according to the data presented, a vigorous drive for diphtheria immunization developed. Five sessions were held. Discussions covered the following subjects:

"The risks of immunization."
"Provocative poliomyelitis."
"Hazards of pertussis vaccination."
"Faults in the sterilization of syringes and needles."
"Personal records and recommended programs and techniques."

For American edification it would seem that such discussions were more academic than practical.

* * *

BASIC OFFICE DERMATOLOGY—Stuart Maddin, M.D., Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology; Member of the Medical Staff of the Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia; Julius L. Danto, M.D., Fellow, American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology; Member of the Medical Staff of the Vancouver General Hospital; and William D. Stewart, M.D., F.R.C.P. (C), Clinical Instructor (Dermatology) Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia. With Forewords by Dr. R. F. Farquharson, M.D., University of Toronto, and M. B. Sulzberger, M.D., New York University. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 1960. 308 pages, \$11.75.

In the preface the authors state their manual is designed to make the average physician more knowledgeable in the management of the common dermatoses. The book is printed in double columns on good paper and is easy to read.

Attention is called to the need of eliciting a careful history, doing a proper physical examination and applying such diagnostic tests as may be indicated—as in all other fields of medicine.

The first section, comprising about two-thirds of the 296 pages of the book discusses the common dermatoses. Each is introduced with a sentence or two characterizing one or more salient features. The presentation in each instance then follows under the headings of significant facts, clinical appearance and course, histopathology, differential diagnosis, diagnostic aids, office management and suggested reading. There are many black and white photographs. Frequently where the manifestations are widespread, there are anatomical charts indicating the common (shaded) and most common (blackened) areas of involvement. Additional charts, drawings or diagrams are added in some cases.

Section II consists of sixteen color pictures of common dermatoses, two to a page. Unfortunately the photographs for the most part are not up to the quality of the book other-

wise. Many of the black and white pictures appear too dark and are not clear and sharp.

Section III devotes fifteen pages to regional dermatological diagnosis. The skin conditions most commonly involving areas such as the scalp, face, eyelids, lips, oral cavity, axillae, hands and wrists, genitalia, et cetera, are described in two or three sentences.

Section IV describes and illustrates the techniques for applying diagnostic procedures such as skin biopsy, examination for fungi and patch testing.

In the main portion of the book in the presentation of "office management" an effort has been made to emphasize a single effective therapeutic outline for each condition. In Section V, titled therapeutic adjuncts for resistant cases or clinical variants, various aspects of dermatological therapy are described in greater detail.

In Section VI diseases having a skin component but affecting multiple organs in the body are presented at some length. Disseminated lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, sarcoidosis, syphilis, tuberculosis, porphyria, xanthomas and others are covered.

Section VII is a short discussion of dermatologic allergy and the book closes with a chapter titled dermatological counselling based on physiology. Here the correct care of normal skin and hair, the influence of factors such as diet, weather and sun exposure, "permanent" waving solutions, bleaches and dyes, cosmetics and deodorants are discussed.

There is an excellent index.

I believe the book will be most helpful to students, general practitioners and physicians in other fields who wish a short and concise description of the more common skin diseases. It will aid those with a limited dermatological background in the diagnosis and treatment of uncomplicated common dermatoses. Considering the limitations imposed by brevity and the rather rigid confines of the outline system adopted for the book, I believe the authors have done very well.

HERMAN V. ALLINGTON, M.D.

* * *

HANDBOOK OF NEUROLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC METHODS—Edited by Fletcher McDowell, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Cornell University Medical College; and Harold G. Wolff, M.D., Anne Parrish Titzell Professor of Medicine (Neurology), Cornell University Medical College. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1960. 201 pages, \$4.50.

This 200-page paper-bound manual has been written primarily for the medical student. Principles are outlined to help in eliciting an adequate history. An extremely detailed outline covering the neurological examination is presented. Brief descriptions are presented of numerous types of diagnostic measures, such as lumbar puncture, skull x-rays, pneumoencephalography, arteriography, laminograms, dural sinus venography, myelography and electroencephalography. Chapters on visual fields and ocular motility functions are especially well presented and contain excellent charts and drawings. Such topics as smell function, cystometrics, audiometry, caloric tests, sweating tests, and electrodiagnostic procedures are given in brief form. An introduction to selected clinical problems has been given concerning management of the comatose patient, acute head injuries, management of the delirious patient, status epilepticus, and ventilatory failure.

This handbook will be of little value to the practicing neurologist or neurosurgeon. It should be of value, however, to the medical student for whom it has been written. It will be useful also to the young physician beginning his training in the fields of neurology or neurosurgery or to the practitioner who finds it necessary to find a brief review of the nervous system.